

# *Instrument Entertainers*

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Many of Midway's "home town" musicians have attained prominence in the musical world. John Sonderegger became first clarinetist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and held the position for many years. Sylvia Kennah became an outstanding concert violinist, while Vera Epperson Clayton was soloist and a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Amos and Laurence Epperson were active in music at Brigham Young University, and Emery Epperson became musical director of the Jordan School District in Salt Lake City as well as a recognized composer. Henry Van Wagoner was recognized as a versatile banjo artist and entertained throughout the area as "Henry Van the Banjo Man."

CONRAD AND MAGDALENA  
MURRI ABEGGLEN

Daughter of Christian Murri, Sr., and Magdalena Valsiger, born 1866 in Switzerland. Married Conrad Abegglen, Jr. She came to Midway from Switzerland at 10 years of age in the year 1876. She lived with her uncle John Murri until her

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parents immigrated three and one-half years later.

Six children were born to Conrad and Magdalena while they lived in Midway. Conrad played the accordion very well. He was a miner. In 1896 they moved by wagon to St. Anthony, Idaho. They had ten more children making 16 in all. They were successful truck gardeners. Mr. Abegglen died early in life but Mrs. Abegglen lived to be 87 years old.

After she was 60 she traveled to Canada to visit the LDS Temple in Cardston, Alberta. Pres. Wood gave her a blessing and promised her that she would live to see a new chapel in her ward. At the time no thought had been given about a new chapel, but the prophecy was fulfilled and Mrs. Abegglen was the first person to have funeral services in the new building.

*Truck Gardener  
played Accordion  
Miner*

JOSEPH F. AND ANNA  
ELIZABETH BURGNER  
ABEGGLEN



Joseph F. Abegglen, son of Conrad Abegglen, Sr., and Elizabeth Kummer Abegglen.

Born January 3, 1866, in Midway. Married Anna Elizabeth Burgener December 17, 1896, Logan Temple.

Died December 11, 1927, in Midway.

Anna Elizabeth Burgener, daughter of Andreas Burgener and Magdalena Meier Burgener.

Born March 9, 1876, Midway.

Married Joseph F. Abegglen, 1896.

Married William Carlile April 8, 1940.

William Carlile, son of John Carlile and Sarah Elizabeth Crook Carlile.

Born September 16, 1879, in Heber.

Died September 20, 1958, in Midway. Buried in Heber.

The native land of Joseph F. Abegglen was Midway. He was the youngest son of Conrad Abegglen, Sr., and Elizabeth Kummer—from the city of Gundlischwand, Berne, Switzerland. His parents were converts to

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

the Latter-day Saint church. He was an industrious farmer and also transported vegetables and beef to Park City, which was then a mining boom town. He was a religious man, and was very active in the LDS church. He advanced in the Priesthood to a Seventy, and he went to school from the age of six to sixteen. He learned to play a trumpet and was in the first brass band in Midway. He also was an accordion player and played for all the dances, parties and socials and for many years he was a caller for the quadrille dances.

He married Anna Elizabeth Burgener. She was an accomplished seamstress and she was on the sewing committee in the Relief Society for many years, sewing clothes for the dead. She was a Relief Society teacher for 21 years and was a receptionist on all social parties and banquets. She served as a teacher in Primary with Maggie Huber, president, and was a member of John Huber's choir. They bought the home of his father—Conrad Abegglen, Sr., in the northern part of town.

Children of Joseph F. and Anna Elizabeth include:

Mrs. Conrad (Ruby) Boss

Leona, who died at age 24 in Salt Lake City

Mrs. Carl (Leda) Greer

Harold, who married Marie Hawks.

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homes and all living creatures from an alpine plain of greater altitude, down to the shores of Lake Brienz. Next morning the residents, eager to rescue any survivors, found only the body of a cold and almost lifeless baby boy, still protected and enclosed in a woven basket. Identification was impossible so they surnamed him Ab-plan-alp, which means "off an alpine plain."

Many years later, Mormon missionaries converted one of the Abplanalp descendants, Peter Abplanalp, Sr., and his wife. When their son, Peter, Jr., was five months old, they left for America in November, 1857.

The family lived in Pikes Pond, New York, for about five years. Two baby girls were born there. They then came directly to Utah, and entered Heber Valley by means of oxen.

The road, to what was then called Mound City, cut off just south of a jutting crag near Hailstone, upon which Ben A. Norris year after year painted the Stars and Stripes. The old road didn't cross the river but ambled over the ridges to the west into Dutch Canyon and hence to the settlements that later became Midway. In this pioneer community Peter, Jr. grew to manhood along with nine other brothers and sisters. He acquired a workable knowledge of both the English and German language.

At age nine, Ute Indians, during the Black Hawk War, came over the mountains east of Heber City to pilfer and raid the herds of the settlers. He and other young fellows of Midway drove the cattle to grazing grounds south west of town and returned them to the stockade at eventide. Later on they were declared Black Hawk War veterans, and ultimately when a beneficent State Legislature appropriated money for pensions, he refused to accept one.

He played a horn in the first Brass Band organized in the valley. His appreciation of good music and a keen sense of timing and harmony enabled him to detect and help correct errors that his children persistently made in learning to play various instruments. It seemed there was always music in the home.

In his early twenties his entire family moved to Vernal. He had given his father two hundred dollars and a yoke of oxen. There wasn't much ceremony at the parting: a handshake, a mother's kiss—then that awkward silence when a man chokes up a bit. He stood there with a few friends and watched them goad the oxen, watched

PETER ABPLANALP JR. AND  
MARY JANE ALDER  
ABPLANALP



Peter Abplanalp, born May 31, 1857, Brienzwyler, Switzerland, the son of Margarita Eggler and Peter Abplanalp, Sr.

Married Mary Jane Alder in 1881.

Died January 7, 1934, Midway.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp, born July 10, 1859 in Salt Lake City, to Mary Jane Wilson and Elijah Alder. Married Peter Abplanalp 1881. Died September 15, 1943, Midway.

According to an old legend that has been kept alive for three or four hundred years in and around the beautiful little village of Brienzwyler, Switzerland—birth place of Peter Abplanalp—an avalanche swept the

little hands wave while the two covered wagons rolled slowly away. He didn't see them often after that.

When he was twenty-four he married Mary Jane Alder in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Transportation was faster now—the horse had practically replaced the ox. On Temple Square men were working high in the air on scaffolding, while on the ground oxen dragged heavy blocks of granite. They were to return in eleven years (1892) to witness the completion and dedication of the Great Mormon Temple.

The first few summers of his married life were spent cutting cord wood in the White Pines north of home. He couldn't split a hair with the blade of an ax, but he could accurately trim off the business end of a secured match eight times out of ten.

For a number of years he supported his family by means of farming and mining. He did assessment work for various mining interests and did it the hard way. Two men worked together, sharpened and tempered their own steel then drilled holes for the dynamite. One hand held the drill while the other pounded it into the rock with a four-pound sledge hammer called a "single jack."

He raised his own horses and experienced much satisfaction breaking in and driving a good "pulling team." Many colts were sold for attractive prices.

He served as a member of the Town Board during the Prohibition era.

Religion to him was a sacred thing. He was a Christian in the true sense, and maintained a steadfast reverence for the authorities of the church. He read a little each day, mainly the scriptures and Church publications. He kept his eldest son William in the Swiss and German mission field thirty-three months.

The adoration and respect he engendered in his family was attested by the loving manner in which his daughters cared for him during the long illness before he died. When death came in 1934, the high council, of which he was a member, formed a military unit at his home and solemnly marched before his bier to the ward chapel for the funeral services.

Mary Jane Alder Abplanalp lived as a young girl in Salt Lake City and then came with her family to Midway. They lived in a log cabin with a dirt roof. Her father

was a mason by trade, and built a brick home for his family, which is still standing today in very good condition.

On September 6th, 1880, Eliza R. Snow came to Midway to organize the Primary. They held the meeting in a small brick building and Sister Snow chose Mary Jane Alder as the first president of this organization. She chose as her counselors Rachel Holfeltz and Cynthia Wootton.

She was always a faithful Latter-day Saint worker. In the Relief Society she has served in many capacities—class leader, visiting teacher for several years, and as a Relief Society Missionary.

She also served as a counselor in the MIA. She taught a class in Sunday School and held an office in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of the Hawthorne Camp.

She was particularly skilled in crocheting, and her many exquisite and intricate designs revealed a keen sense of artistry and color harmony. Many of her friends and relatives were made happy with exquisite gifts that they received from her.

She was also noted for the numerous quilts she made creating many designs of great beauty.

Much of her time was devoted to taking care of the sick, visiting and assisting the needy and the bereaved. She was very devoted to her family, always kind and generous and loved by all who knew her. Mary Jane and Peter Abplanalp always kept their door open to their family and friends. Their greetings of welcome were always warm and sincere, and their hospitality was the finest.

Children of Peter Abplanalp and Mary Jane Alder:

William, married Ida Huber

Mrs. David (Mary Jane) Wootton

Mrs. Thomas J. (Myrtle Margaret) Snarr

Mrs. Guy E. (Teresa Ellis) Coleman

Mrs. Glen (Lacy Elizabeth) Jensen. Later Laurence Greenwood, later Richard Lundquist

Doctor L. Reed, married Lorna Forbush  
Mrs. Diamond (Ethel Vilate) Adams.

## ALFRED LORENZO AND IDA BURGENER ALDER

Alfred Lorenzo, son of Elijah and Mary Jane Wilson Alder, was born November 7, 1875. He married Ida Burgener May 23, 1903. He died October 16, 1945, in Midway.

## GEORGE BLACKLEY

George Blackley, son of William and Elizabeth Callaway Blackley, was born Feb. 10, 1830, in England. He married Elizabeth White. She was born 5 July 1822, to John and Maria Christmas White in Egerton, Kent England. To them were born five children, one girl, four boys.

Emma, Thomas, Adolphus, William Lorenzo (Lorry), John George.

George came to Utah in 1869 and settled in Heber City. He was a carpenter by trade. He helped build the Stake House, school houses and many of the old homes in Heber. His own home which still stands at 421 East 2nd North was considered a beautiful home. He died 16 March 1902 at Heber and is buried in Heber cemetery.

Elizabeth White Blackley was baptized into the LDS Church 5 Jan. 1850 by Jacob Gates. The ice had to be broken on the water for baptism. It was just a few months before her first child was born. In 1866 she arrived in Heber with two children, Thomas and Emma. Adolphus had died on the way. The father and older boys came later when they had earned enough money for the journey.

When Elizabeth first came to Wasatch County she lived at the Davis ranch at Hailstone. She had been a dear friend of Mrs. Davis in England.

She was a tailor by trade and made many clothes for men. She also bound the tops of shoes and put the lining in them for the shoemakers. She owned a mandolin and she could play it and sing beautifully. She was also noted for her English puddings and pies. She died 10 July 1909 at Heber City.



## GOTTFRIED BUHLER AND LOUISA BARBEN BUHLER



Gottfried Buhler, son of Ulrich Buhler and Anna Burgdorffer Buhler. Born October 28, 1854, Gunten, Lake of Thun, Canton Bern, Switzerland.

Married Louisa Barben December 9, 1882, Salt Lake Endowment House.

Died November 1, 1935, in Midway.

Louisa Barben, daughter of Jacob Barben and Susan Burgener Barben.

Born January 1, 1865, in Bern, Switzerland.

Died January 24, 1914, in Midway.

Gottfried Buhler lived with his parents in the little town of Gunten until 1869 when his father sold all his holdings and began preparations to emigrate to Utah. However, when the President of the Swiss German mission learned that the elder Buhler was planning to leave Switzerland, he told him he must remain for he was needed in leadership there.

Ulrich Buhler had already sold his possessions, but heeded counsel and soon con-

## BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

tacted a convert to the church, Christian Burger. He arranged to buy the small Burger farm about 15 miles from their previous holdings.

The Buhler family was somewhat dissatisfied with the new farm, as they had left a comfortable three-story home, and were now living in a stable. But they had faith, and for 12 years remained in Switzerland leading the people and converting many hundreds more to the gospel.

By the time the family was ready to emigrate, young Gottfried had completed his schooling. They left Switzerland in June of 1872 and arrived in Salt Lake City July 4, about 9 o'clock in the evening.

They stayed for about 10 days in Cottonwood with the Christian Burgers. While there, Gottfried and Chris Burger walked up through the Canyon into Midway where some of his father's brothers resided. Gottfried was impressed with the area, and the next day went with his father to the area. They later made arrangements to move to Midway, moving into a little log house belonging to a man named Moser.

Gottfried in the meantime secured work, even though only 17, with a company building a railroad through American Fork Canyon. One Sunday the sawmill where he had his bedding burned down, and he was forced to return to Midway. It was dark when he got to the head of the canyon and he became lost in the tops of the mountains. While lost he had a miraculous experience and was safely rescued through the inspiration of the Lord.

Following this he went to Murray and obtained work at a German smelter being constructed there. He worked there for some two years, and then in 1875 went to Eureka City, Nevada, and then on to a ranch at Duckwater, Nevada. He returned home during the summer, and went again the next winter to Duckwater. The following winter he worked at Park City, where he labored until 1880. That year he married Louisa Barben and moved into a one room home he had built two years previous.

The summer following his marriage he added two more rooms, and made new furniture. After his marriage he remained at home and began farming 26 acres. He also did carpenter work in his spare time.

In 1888 he was called to serve as a missionary in Switzerland. He and his wife had three children, Frank, William and Jo-

## MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

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seph. Before he left, Frank died of pneumonia, but on Oct. 10, 1888, he left for the mission field. He labored in Switzerland, and then later went to Munich, Germany, where he enjoyed a successful mission.

Returning home he was instrumental in organizing a branch of German and Swiss speaking people in Midway. They would attend the regular Sunday School, and then hold a meeting, speaking only German. Then they would attend the regular Sacrament meeting in an effort to learn the English language.

Traveling to Cache Valley, Gottfried learned the cheese business, and returned to Midway to build the first creamery in the county. He taught his boys the trade, and their cheeses won many prizes at the state fair. He also owned a general store and built the first public bath house.

Gottfried remained faithful to the Church throughout his life. He held the office of a Seventy at the time of his death. He loved music and played the organ, harmonica and accordion.

Louisa Buhler was loved by the people who knew her. She was shy and retiring. She was devoted to her children.

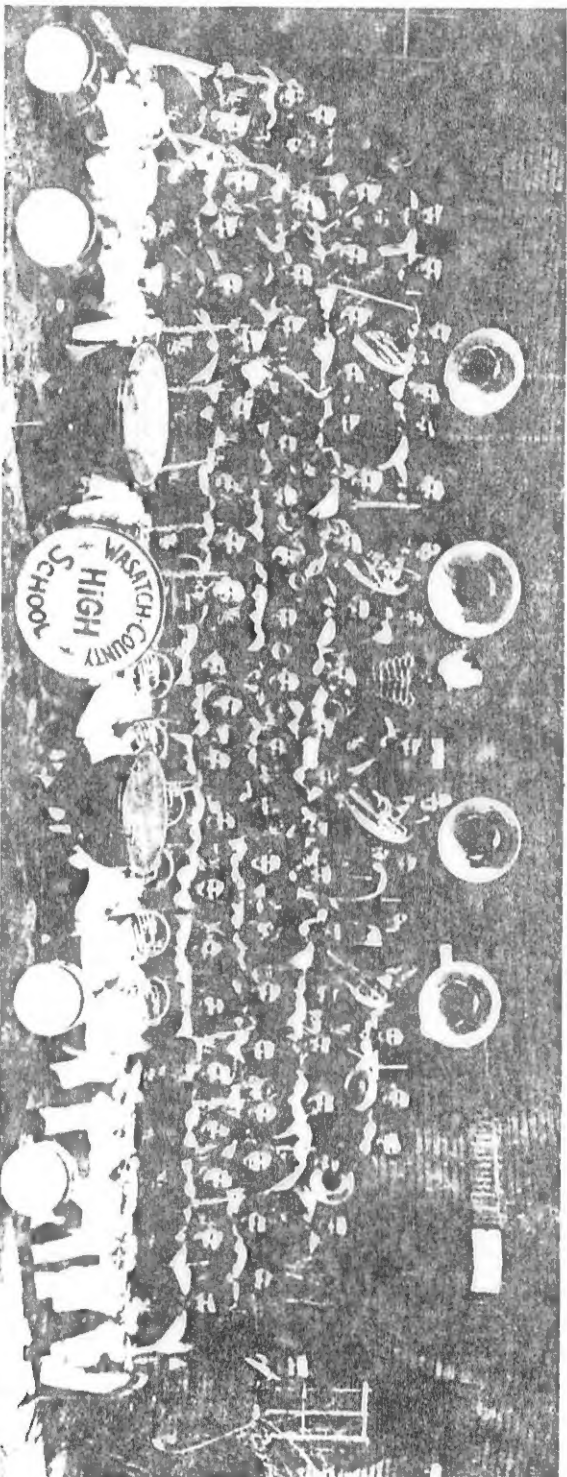
She excelled in sewing and cooking. She was hospitable and very kind. She fed everyone who visited at her home. She sent food to the sick and the needy. She had a cheerful, pleasant disposition. She was thoughtful of her friends and neighbors and loved her family with a great devotion.

Children of Gottfried and Louisa Barben Buhler include:

- Frank, died at the age of three
- William J., married to Rachel Wilson
- Joseph, married to Hazel Jones
- Alma, married to Hazel Loveridge
- Adeline Louise (Ardell), married to Dean Clyde
- Francis, married to Louise Griner
- Ephraim, married to Dora Hunt
- Roland, married to Florence Hasler
- Orson, married to Emma McCullister
- Bernice, married to Lynn McDonald
- Vesta, married to John Routh
- Thurman, married to Faye Bronson



Delmar Dickson  
Music



WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL BAND

1934

WASATCH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
1934

Lavon Hair, saxophone and guitar; Keith Montgomery, bass fiddle and Don Ryan, Spanish guitar and mandolin.

The piano has been a favorite musical instrument and many have become accomplished pianists. Amy Hancock Clayburn was one Midway resident who played well and taught many others to play. Some of the talented Midway pianists have included Lacy Abplanalp Lundquist, Geneva Wilson, June Boss Tatton, Grace Reese, Ardell Buhler Clyde, Floris Smith, Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald and Barbara Bonner.

Many of Midway's "home town" musicians have attained prominence in the musical world. John Sonderegger became first clarinetist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and held the position for many years. Sylvia Kennah became an outstanding concert violinist, while Vera Epperson Clayton was soloist and a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Amos and Laurence Epperson were active in music at Brigham Young University, and Emery Epperson became musical director of the Jordan School District in Salt Lake City as well as a recognized composer. Henry Van Wagoner was recognized as a versatile banjo artist and entertained throughout the area as "Henry Van the Banjo Man."

One of the area's most successful teachers and leaders of music was Arnold Burgener. In his school days at Brigham Young University he played in the Provo Opera House and participated in many vaudeville



A more recent musical group in Midway is the North Brothers Orchestra, popular at community dances and social gatherings. Pictured are, left to right, Garth North, LaVon Hair, Keith Montgomery, Raymond North, Don Ryan and Howard North.

*David Scott Green  
Trumpet Player*



David Green, Paul Jenkins, John Thacker, and other members of the trumpet section hope to receive divine inspiration to help them on this piece.

**70 Band**

Paul Nathan Green  
expert percussionist





The Fourth Midway Band, directed by Fred O. Haueter, included, left to right, Ellis Epperson, Walter Burgener, David Provost, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst, Fred O. Haueter, leader, John Burgener, Bernard Kennah, Delbert Ross, Henry Zenger, and not shown on the photograph, William Haueter, Edward Burgener, Jess Bigler, William Bigler, Alva Ross and Reed Alder.

way scene. The old time square dance, the mazurka and Virginia Reels were danced to the violin played by Moroni Blood, Mark Smith, Jim Wheeler, Jeremiah Robey, George and Edward Wardle and David Van Wagoner. Those who came to the early dances usually paid their admission with potatoes or other produce.

One of the first regular orchestras included William Abplanalp, violin; Lacy Abplanalp, piano; John Sonderegger, clarinet; Lawrence and Amos Epperson and F. O. Haueter, cornet. Still others included Sylvia Kennah, violin; Ernest E. Sonderegger, clarinet; Karl Probst and Lavon Hair, saxophone; Clarence Probst, clarinet; Geneva Wilson, Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald and June Boss Tatton, piano; Ammon Van Wagoner, xylophone and Ferrin and El Roy Van Wagoner, clarinets. Orson Burgi was particularly outstanding on the trumpet.

David Murdock and his wife Emma Van Wagoner Murdock had a small orchestra in the early days which proved most popular when old time dance music was desired for such dances as the Mazurka, the De La Grande, Waltz Quadrille, Varsouvienne and the Schottische.

A western orchestra was organized by the North Brothers in 1935, and has been in great demand since throughout Wasatch County and other areas for wedding dances, church socials and public dances. Members of the orchestra include Howard North, Spanish guitar; Raymond North, accordion and harmonica; Garth North, banjo and tenor guitar;